A Celebration Of Life

Reverend Otis Harris

Sunrise: July 29, 1929

Sunset: October 27, 2021

Friday, November 12, 2021
11:00 A.M.
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, California 94803

Remembering

Otis Harris was born in Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana on July 28, 1929, to his parents Samuel Harris and Blanche Taylor. He lost his mother at an early age and went to live with his uncle and aunt (Marshall and Susie Norris). At the young the age of 7 years old, Otis accepted Christ and he was baptized in the city of Bonita, Louisiana. His family relocated to Oakland, California in 1942 and later settled in Fresno, California in 1944. Otis attended Thomas A. Edison High School. Otis excelled athletically, becoming a Three Sport Letterman (Basketball, Football, and Track) at Fresno City College. In 1946, Otis met Maurine Slade, at a Fresno Youth Center dance. Under the pastorage of the late Reverend L.C. Garrett of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, they married in 1951. Together they raised five beautiful children, Susan, Teddrick, Elayne, Dwight and Kimberley. Otis and Maurine were married for 45 years until God called her home on October 27, 1996.

Reverend Harris was a proud Purple Heart Veteran, having served in the United States Army with a two-year tour duty in the Korean Conflict. It was there, injured and lying in a foxhole, that he promised God, he would serve Him, if he would just bring him home safely. God did bring him home. He moved his family to Richmond, California in 1957. The family united with the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in 1963.

Reverend Harris served his church well, working diligently under Reverend R.L. Johnson, Rev. Charles Belcher, Rev. Calvin Jones, Sr., and Pastor Kevin B. Hall. He was an usher, the President of the Usher Board, a member of the R.L. Johnson Male Chorus, a member of the Deacon Board, Chairman of the Scholarship Ministry, Superintendent of the Sunday School, Chairman of the Church Building Fund for the present sanctuary, and Dean and Director of Christian Education.

Reverend Harris accepted his call into the ministry in 1984. Academically, Rev. Harris has received Certificates from the Bay Cities Bible College and the Jerry Falwell Bible College Correspondence Course. He was Ordained to Preach the Gospel in1986 by the late, great Reverend R.L. Johnson. His most recent post under Pastor Hall was the Senior Adult Minister, Bible Study Teacher, Deaconess Ministry Advisor, Assistant to the Pastor, and Servant Leader of the Golden Agers.

Rev. Harris was in the upholstery business for over 60 years. He started his own business, American Auto Upholstery on Broadway's Auto Row in Oakland, California where he was sole proprietor for over 30 years. After selling his business, he worked independently as an auto upholstery seamster and convertible top specialist until he retired. After retiring, Rev. Harris was employed at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church Administration Building for several years.

In 1997, Rev. Harris found love again and married Cynthia M. Green, becoming stepfather to Aaron Green and Jenell (Mustafa) Muhyee. Cynthia and Otis parted ways but have remained lifelong friends. Otis was affectionately known as "Pockeye," "Odie," "Our Gentle Giant," or "Grandpa Harris."

Rev. Harris was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall and Susie Norris, daughters Kimberly Christian and Elayne Harris-Wilson, and son Teddrick Harris, Grandson Andrew Christian, brothers Leroy Harris, Fred Harris, and Edward Harris.

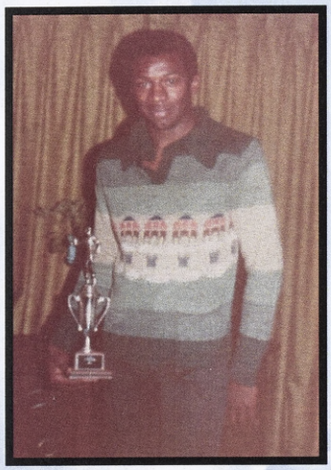
He leaves to cherish his memories: daughter, Susan Harris and son Dwight Harris, brothers; Ross Harris of Sacramento, CA, Clinton Harris of Wilmot, AR, sisters; Pearlie Harris Guidon of Lake Charles, LA, Tinest Harris, Chicago, IL, Martha Hobbs of Bastrop, LA. Rev. Harris is extremely proud of his family. He boasts of his children, 16 grand-children, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild and a host of nieces and nephews.

The scripture he strived to live by is I Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

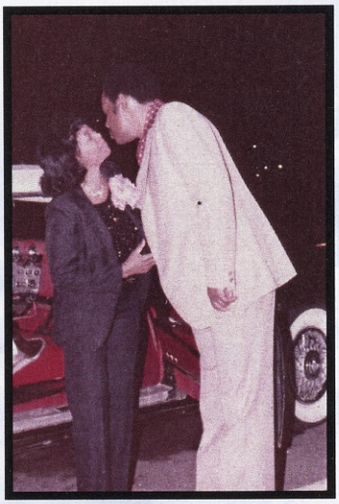
Order Of Service

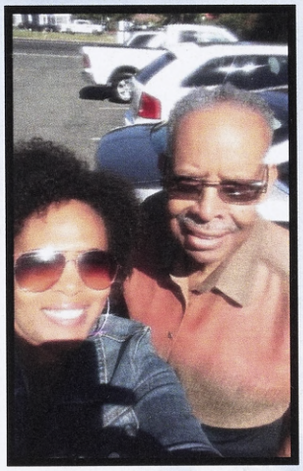
Processional	
Honor Guard	*California National Guard/Veteran's Administration*
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament: Psalms 34:17-19;22	*Teresa Christian Daniel*
New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	*Nicole Obasuyi*
Prayer	*Glenn E. Harris*
Resolution	*Minister Derek Jackson*
Words of Comfort	*Minister Derek Jackson*
Committal	*Minister Derek Jackson*
Recessional	

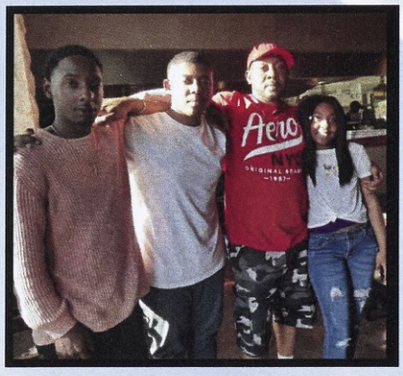
Repast will be private

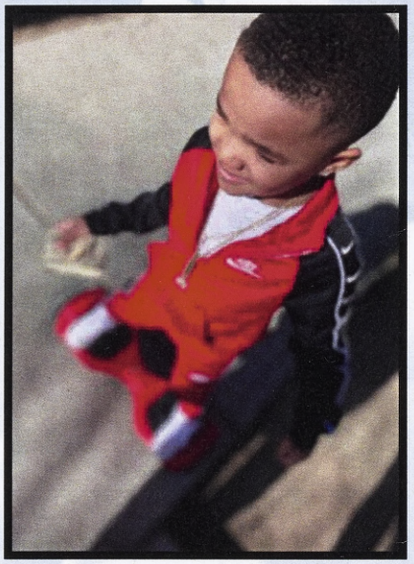


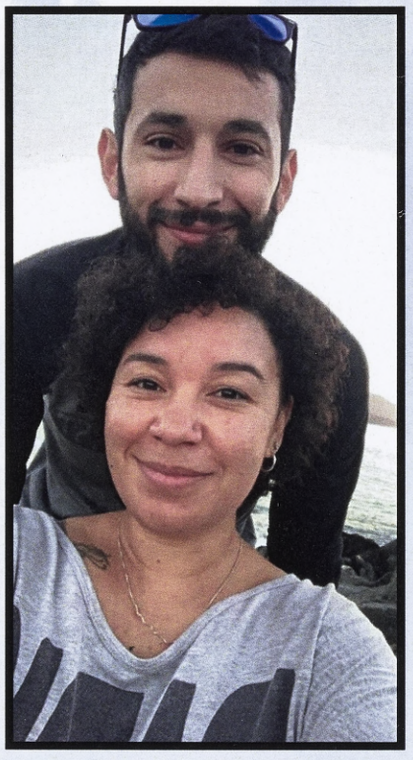
SEAT
COVERS

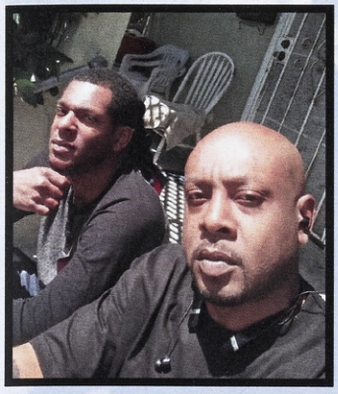


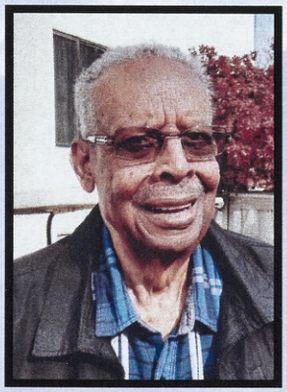


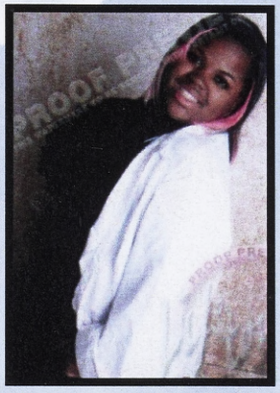


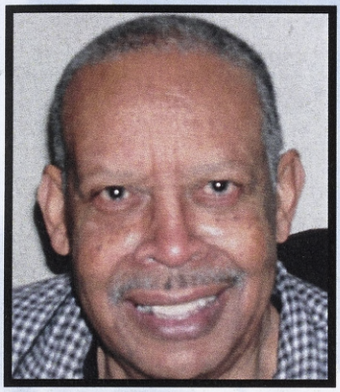


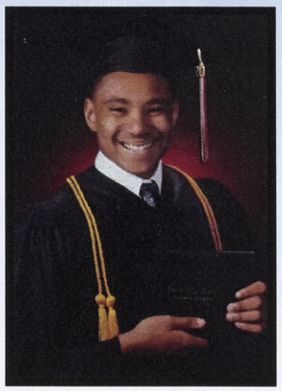












Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

THE JOHNSON's

Active Pallbearers

Glenn Harris
Dale Harris
Ryan Christian
Teddrick Harris Jr.
Miguel Johnson
Paul Christian

Honorary Pallbearers

Sgt. Dwight Harris Jr.
Lance E. Britt, Sr.
Pastor Calvin Jones Jr.
Joshua Booker
Deacon Elwood Jordan
Minister Derek Jackson

Acknowledgements

The family of Reverend Otis Harris wishes to express a very warm and heartfelt thank you. There are no adequate words to express our gratitude for the numerous acts of kindness that were bestowed upon us during Rev. Harris' illness and homegoing. We humbly request you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we enter a new phase in life without our most precious loved one.

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

Humbly,
The Family of Reverend Otis Harris

Special Thanks

To the St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Minister Derek Jackson, the Golden Agers, my extended family, and friends.

THANK YOU.

Love,
The Harris Family

Arrangements Entrusted To:

Wilson & Kratzer
Civic Center Chapel
455-24th Street · Richmond, California 94804

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive · Richmond, California 94803